

MIDSTATE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

**MARC**

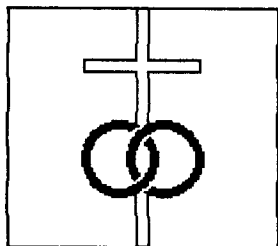
**SPARK  
GAP**

*"Ham Radio News from Johnson County, Indiana"*

VOLUME XIII NO. 06

JUNE 1997

# AMATEUR PRODUCTION LEADS TO MARRIAGE



It was an amateur production from the start. Joe Rogers-KF9LQ and Barbara Rice-KB9NOG were married at the Friendship Church at 2350 S. Meridian Street Sunday May 25th. The Reverend

Mark McKinney, AA9NG, performed the nuptials. Bill Brinkmann-KA9ZMU was Best Man. Barbara's daughter Brenda was Maid of Honor. Ten Amateur Radio operators attended the ceremony along with other family and friends.

Joe and Barb have known each other for the past 17-years. They began dating two years ago. That's when Joe's love of Amateur Radio made an impression of Barbara. She soon earned her Technician Class license. But, it wasn't Joe's smooth talking on the radio that lead to this union. Barb admits, "I'm absolutely crazy about him."

You won't find Joe operating out of his one story bungalow on Walnut Street anymore. He and Barb have moved to suburban Franklin. They now own a one story-three bedroom ranch on Center Lane south of Franklin. Joe says their new castle will soon be equiped with tower and beams so he and the misses can DX the world. --MARC



Joe and Barbara served lots of wedding cake.

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# SPARK GAP

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## Membership Information

The Mid-State Amateur Radio Club is a Franklin based organization open to all amateur radio operators in central Indiana.

The MARC meets the third Saturday of each month in the training room of the Johnson County Emergency Operations Center at 1100 Hospital Road in Franklin, In.

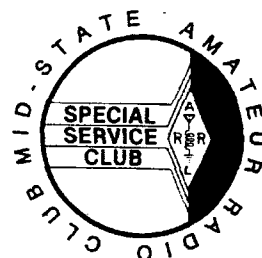
The MARC operates a 2-meter repeater at 146.835 MHz. Each club member has free access to the repeater and autopatch.

Annual membership is \$18.00. VE Testing follows each meeting from March through November.

Submit stories to the editor on disk or via e-mail by the 3rd of each month.

Send change-of-address information and membership applications to the club treasurer @ MARC President, P.O. Box 836, Franklin, In. 46131.

The Spark Gap is published monthly by the Mid-State ARC.



# CLUB OFFICERS

## President :

Dennis Parton, KB9HPQ  
H. 535-5867

## Vice President:

George Weimer, KG9HU  
H. 882-5081

## Secretary:

Marilyn Parton, N9TUK  
H. 535-9910

## Treasurer/ARES:

Vernon Gill, N9QBO  
H. 738-4575

## RACES Director:

Rich Jasinski  
H. 889-8962

## Repeater Trustee:

## VE Team Coordinator

Dave Wendt, KA9OOH  
H. 974-1488

## Activities:

Jack Parker, NT9J  
H. 881-0817

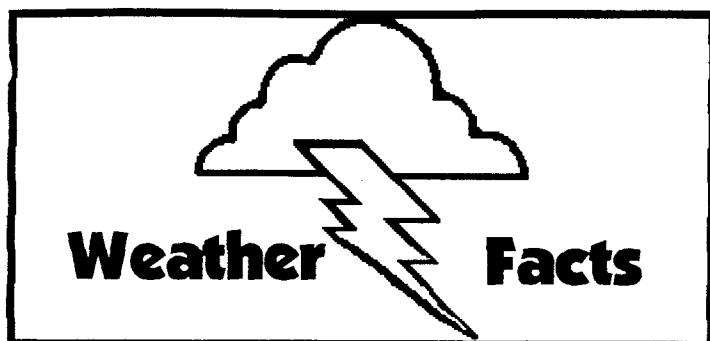
# Club Meeting

8 AM Saturday June 21st

Topic: Field Day '97 Preps

# VE Testing

9:15 AM following club meeting

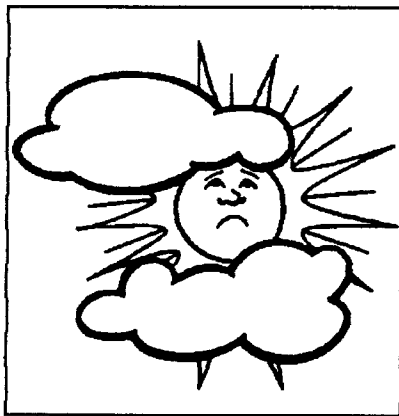


By Mike Rosemark, KA9VMR

NWS Meteorologist

## I'll Be Back

Recently, a warming of waters in the eastern Pacific Ocean that can change weather conditions around the world seems to be occurring. Buoys that measure water temperature, weather balloons, and special satellite sensors have been recording indications of warming over that past several months in this region. This phenomena, called **El Nino**, combines warmer than normal Pacific Ocean temperatures with a shift in the jetstream. It results in certain areas with typically dry conditions getting heavy rain and potential flooding, while other areas experience drought. For Americans, El Nino can mean storms and flooding on the West Coast, summer heat waves in the Midwest, and a decline in hurricanes in the Southeast.



Normally occasional in nature, El Nino events occurred in 1976-77, 1982-83, 1986-87, 1991-92, and 1994-95. The 1982-83 event was blamed for 1,500 deaths and damage totalling over \$8 billion. Late 95 through late 96 has seen a period of rather cool ocean temperatures in the eastern Pacific. Warm, moist air rising from the eastern Pacific region disrupts the normal flow of the strong upper air jetstream winds that steer weather systems around the world. This disruption can cause persistent and unusual weather patterns to occur. Although evidence that an El Nino is currently developing is as yet inconclusive, recent historical patterns and preliminary readings indicate that it is likely to return this year. --KA9VMR

**Ham Radio & More QSY:** The Ham Radio & More radio program has returned to 5.070 MHz for its live weekly broadcast on WWCR. The show airs live Sundays at 6 PM Eastern Time (2200 UTC) on WWCR and on many local commercial stations. --Len Winkler, KB7LPW

## Let's Buy Our Bands



A ham says that its time for the Amateur Radio Service to insure its survival by purchasing spectrum from the FCC.

According to a posting on the VHF Reflector by Bob Carpenter W3OTC, the latest FCC spectrum auction was supposed to bring in \$1.8 billion to the federal coffers. Instead it pulled only \$13.6 million.

Carpenter cites a Washington Post story wherein the FCC blames the poor showing on Congress. The FCC says congress did not give the agency or the industry enough time to prepare for the latest auction. But the low bids also might be a sign that the market for telecommunications licenses is becoming glutted, some analysts suggest. And Carpenter says that if this is the case then its time for the ARRL or some other ham radio group to start bidding. It's time for hams to place offers on any present and former ham radio spectrum that

might be put up for grabs. Bob Carpenter seems to indicate that bidding random small amounts should eliminate any doubt in the multi-national world of telecommunications giants that we hams mean to keep our frequencies for decades to come. --ARRL Bulletin

**A NOTE OF THANKS**--Goes to Mike Rosemark, KA9VMR, for his regular contributions to the *Spark Gap*. Mike's monthly articles about meteorology and weather facts have continued to give our newsletter valuable information and interesting facts about the ever changing world of weather. --Editor.

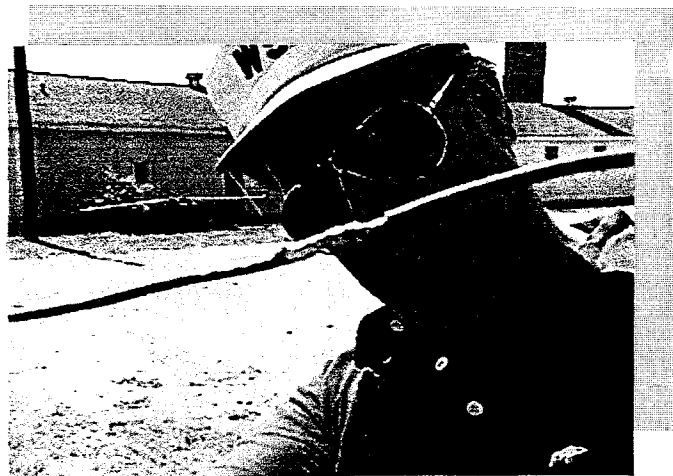
# Remember When?

*Spark Gap July 1992*

*Mac McCarty, NV9K-Editor*

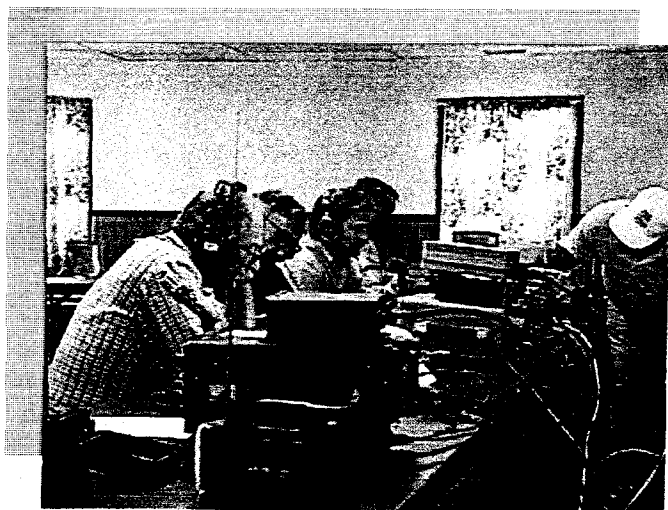
Was the '92 Field Day a success? Yes, it was in many ways. Set-up began about 8 AM on Saturday with a crew of hams assembling the beams for attachment to the crane. Lendal Cook-W9LNX and Jabran Soubeih, N9KZA were in charge of the antennas.

Bob Cammack-N9IMP was in charge this year and he did an excellent job! He took advantage of the experience of his dad, Dan Cammack-W9MLN. Bob selected Pat Pyle-W9PSD to take charge of the food with the help of Randy Shake-KC9LC. For lunch there were sloppy joes and Pat's "floor-mat" chili. All in all, 26 different hams were logged in attendance for the 2 day event. It was an enjoyable weekend!



Dan Cammack-W9MLN checks a perfect wire splice on a newly constructed antenna. Dan's expertise at the code key always accounted for dozens of CW contacts during Field Day '92. Dan remains a long distance club member while living in Kentucky. -Photo NT9J

## Plan for Field Day '97



HF, VHF and Packet radios were put to the test in June 1992. As the noon hour passed, radios were tuned up and made ready for transmitting across the country. Pictured (l-r) are Lyndal Cook-W9LNX, Dan Cammack-W9MLN, Andy Bowyer-N9KZE, and Keith Cohoon-K9PDI. Checking for bad connections on the back of the radios is Joe Vergara-KA9ZPA. Over twenty operators participated in the 24-hour exercise. A hundred foot crane from Ed's Crane Service held the antennas. -Photos NT9J.

If it's June, it must be time for Field Day '97. June 28th and 29th Mid-State ARC hams will gather at the Johnson County Park office to take part in another marathon field exercise. Set-up will begin at 8 AM Saturday morning. According to JR Osborne-KB9HSE Field Day will have the usual complement of 2-meter, 10-meter and HF radios.

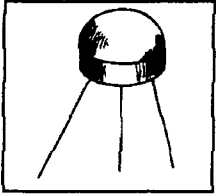
Needed is a packet station and an Amateur TV or Satellite stations. Plans are to use the RACES tower trailer for the HF antenna. In the past, a 26-ton crane from Ed's Crane Service in Franklin had been used for the beams and other antennas.

The park office has two meeting rooms. We will use the southern room. It is the same location used last year. The room comes complete with kitchen, air conditioning, tables and plenty of chairs. A nearby 50-foot tower can be used for extra wire antennas.

As usual everyone is invited to the 6 PM Saturday night pitch-in dinner. Bring the family and a covered dish and drinks. The Johnson County Park will have their annual 4th of July Fireworks display at 9 PM that evening.

Club President Dennis Parton-KB9HPQ says the Midnight cookout for radios operators will continue. Last year Terry Grubb-N9YLJ cooked hamburgers and hotdogs for the late night and early morning radio operators. A sign-up list for operating times will be passed around at the June meeting. Make plans now to participate in Field Day '97.--MARC

# Transistors turn 50



The transistor turns 50 years old this year. It was invented by Bell Labs (now Lucent Technologies) in December, 1947. It costs one million times less to make a transistor today than it did 30 years ago.

Scientists recently marked the 100th anniversary of the 1897 presentation before the British Royal Academy of Sciences of a paper by physicist J. J. Thompson that first recognized the existence of the electron. In his presentation, Thompson described how he discovered, experimentally, that cathode rays were negatively charged particles which he dubbed electrons.  
—Wired News/Jim Fitton, W1FMR



## This House a home no more

The original home of the Mid-State Amateur Radio Club has closed its doors forever. In early May, **House of Franklin** owners shut down the grill and turned out the lights on one of Franklin's historical landmarks. For over five years the Mid-State ARC met in the backroom every third Saturday of the month. That early Saturday morning tradition continued when the club moved its meetings to the Emergency Operations Center at the county jail. Nearly two dozen Amateur Radio operators could be heard ordering two eggs, sunny side up, toast, a short stack of pancakes, coffee, orange juice and chocolate milk. The House of Franklin had no drive-thru, but orders for biscuits and gravy were often called in via 2-meter

## Happy Birthday

Deborah Julian	KB9AXD	6/1
Paul Roman	KA9PPG	6/2
Larry Clingman	KB9HVV	6/4
Pat Pyle	W9PSD	6/4
Dan Hodge	KB9NDJ	6/5
Marilyn Parton	N9TUK	6/6
David Julian	WB9YIG	6/10
Dick Sutton	N9WTF	6/10
Stephen Sever	KB9BV	6/10
Larry Noonan	N9ZCW	6/12
W.C. Goodall	N9DBY	6/13
Bob Huxley	N9VPJ	6/15
Jack Parker	NT9J	6/15
Robert Betts	N9KDX	6/17
Terry Grubb	N9YLJ	6/17
Phil Thomas	N8LJA	6/19
Win Hardisty	K9EMV	6/20
Herschel Saylor	WD9GMW	6/22
Jim Anderson	N9KVV	6/28
Charles Francis	KB9KDJ	6/28
John Cooper, Jr.	N9VZD	6/30

radio while the waitress took notes. We will miss the bottomless cups of coffee and the friendly service. But, most of all we will miss the monthly camaraderie of hams talking ham radio. No other restaurant has been chosen as the *Official Breakfast Spot* at this time. —MARC

**Conversation heard recently outside a CLOSED Frisch's Restaurant:** 'All I know is these guys with radios start coming in here on Saturdays, talking about hams, tapping out code on the table tops and **WHAMO**...the place closes.

Say, where we gonna eat now?"

# Road to Adventure

"Belize or Bust" is the battle cry for Jon Haskell-KB9CML and Jack Parker-NT9J. The duo will leave July 12th for a two week trip into the jungles of Belize and Central America. The 4000 mile trip is being sponsored by the American Land Rover Association and Rivers of the World. Their mission is to take sports equipment, medical and school supplies to poverty stricken children in Belize. Then Jack and John will venture into the jungles to check out the ancient Mayan Indiana ruins and other

natural wonders of Belize. You can follow their road to discovery on the HF bands by tuning into 20 meters at 14.300 Khz. They will be monitoring the HF bands daily as their make the 2000 mile trek through Mexico and into Belize. Their daily movements will be tracked via APRS on the internet. Check out the Web page at: [www.dgs.com/wb9kws](http://www.dgs.com/wb9kws). Look for the listing on their trip. If all goes well the dynamic duo will be sending slow scan pictures back for the Web page. --MARC

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(RED MAILBOX)



Jack-NT9J and Jon-KB9CML ponder the map of Mexico as they plan their trip to Belize. The two week trip will find them on HF radio at 14.300 Khz.

## CYBER SPACE CONNECTIONS

**MARC Internet Home Page**

**<http://www.surf-ici.com/marc>**

**Crossroads Broadcast BBS**

**Charlie Sears, N9MEW - 535-1643**

**Windtrax Home Page**

**<http://www.windtrax.org>**